SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : If they think that some of the delegates became sick by consuming some products made of pure ghee placed all over the world, then nobody is going to have your pure ghee. We cannot export it. Let us not talk of it. As I mentioned, in respect of export of milk products and any food products, we have to be extremely quality-concerned. We must tune our production programme according to the requirement of the country because they are extremely cautious of quality from nutrition point of view.

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड द्वारा रूस से मशीनरी की खरीद

*424. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
डा. जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :†

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 16 दिसम्बर, 1992 के "इकोनोमिक टाइम्स" में "सी. आई. एल. फ्रैन्टीकली पुलिंग फंड्स टू बाई रशियन इक्युएमेन्ट" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड ने कुछ मशीनरी रूस से खरीदने का निर्णय लिया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस मशीनरी का वास्तविक मूल्य कितना है और रूस इस समय इसे कितने मूल्य पर बेचने को तैयार है; और

(घ) क्या कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड ने देश की आवश्यकता के संदर्भ में इन मशीनों के उपयोग के बारे में कोई आकलन किया है, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No, Sir. However the caption in Economic Times dated 16th December, 1992 "Russians offer machinery to CIL for a song in bid to raise forex" have come to the notice of Government.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. CIL has not received any firm offer from Russia for sale of equipment.

(d) Assessing the problems of utilisation of equipment supplied by the manufacturers of the former Soviet Union, Coal India Ltd. sent a team in September/October, 1992 to Russia, Ukraine, Kazakastan and Byelorussia to establish direct contacts with the manufacturers.

डा. जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन : सर, इससे पहले कि मैं मंत्री महोदय से प्रश्न पूछूं, मेरी प्रार्थना है आपसे आपके संरक्षण और निर्देशन के लिए । मंत्री महोदय यदि पूछे गए प्रश्न का उत्तर न देकर कुछ और ही और बात करें तो मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूं कि सदस्य क्या करें ? . . (व्यवधान) . .

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन : सवाल पूछिए न, टाइम क्यों खराब कर रहे हैं सदन का ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You ask your question, please.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Sir, I need your guidance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : My guidance is that you please ask your supplementary.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Sir, my first supplementary is : Is it a fact that our pit-head stocks of coal had increased to 37.72 million tonnes in December, 1992 from 34.40 million tonnes in 1991 ? What is the rationale for increased production in the face of lagging demand ? Is the demand lagging on account of your policy of cash-and-carry ? If this is so, is the Government considering revising its policy so that the increased production of coal does not suffer because of lack of Government's ability to regulate demand ?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, the question is wholly different and I don't know whether I should secure your protection or the Member should. The question is regarding the use of Russian equipment. But still I know the answer to this question and so I answer it. The pit-head stocks

†सभा में यह प्रश्न डा. जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन द्वारा पूछा गया ।

have, in fact, risen but not to the extent that the hon. Member stated. The actual amount I don't remember. But I will inform the hon. Member. It has gone up. The workers of Coal India Limited have done well. They have produced from underground mines as well as open-cast mines. But because of lack of sufficient linkages from railways as well as roadways it could not be carried in such a manner that the entire stock of pit-heads could be taken away. Secondly, there were other difficulties which I found like where it has to be delivered, where quality has to be checked, etc. There was a dispute as to whether it should be checked at the pit-head, delivery point or in the consumer's area, whether it is power sector or cement factory. It has now been decided clearly that it has to be done at the pit-head loading point, whether it is quality, quantity or whatever it may be. Thirdly, because of the law and order situation in some parts of the country, there was some disruption and that is why although the workers produced more, it could not be despatched properly. But steps have been taken and the target for production and despatch, I do hope sincerely, would be reached by the 31st in proper order except in one or two places where despatch could not be done because consumers refused to take it. I will certainly place that before the Members of Parliament when the occasion arises. It is not that demand is lacking or the quality is falling nor because of cash-and-carry method. When the cash-and-carry method, was first introduced, naturally, there was some hesitation because there were huge amounts of arrears which had not been paid. So this new system was started by my colleague, Mr. Sangma, who is present here. Initially there was some hesitation. But as I have already replied, 50 per cent increased in recovery has taken place because of the cash-and-carry method.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Sir, on your advice I gave up my claim and the Minister has now complained to you and he seeks your protection. Sir, please allow me to ... (*Interruptions*) ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I allow you to ask the second supplementary.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Before asking my second supplementary, I am pointing out, Sir, how callousness and non-seriousness have been resorted to by the Ministry while replying to my question. Sir, my first question was whether the Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the *Economic Times* dated 16th December and the Minister replies to that, but he says, 'No, Sir'. Does he apply his mind before reading his reply ? I asked, Sir, whether he knew about a news-item and he says, 'No, Sir' and he replied only about that news-item. So, this shows a total lack of seriousness on the part of the Minister when he answers questions. The (d) part of my question was whether the Coal India Limited had made an assessment regarding the utility of machines in the context of the need of the country; if so, the details thereof. In reply to question (d), the hon. Minister has answered, "Assessing the problems of utilisation of equipment supplied by the manufacturers of the former Soviet Union, the Coal India Limited has sent a team to establish direct contacts with the manufacturers." Sir, this was not my question at all. We ask questions in writing three or four weeks in advance and if these are the answers, what do we do ? I need your protection, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Any Comments ?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, let the hon. Member read his question once more. The question is whether the Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the *Economic Times* of 16th December. We looked for it. There is no such news-item in the *Economic Times* ... (*Interruptions*)

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : In reply to "whether attention was drawn", you said, 'No.'

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : There was no such news-item under the heading "CIL frantically pooling funds to buy Russian equipment". We did not find that. But, Sir, to become absolutely open and transparent before the House, we did find a news item under the heading "Russians offer machinery to CIL for a song in a bid to raise forex", which is with me. Therefore, I said, "No". We did not find that news-item. But we got this news-item and I have answered the query.

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the details of the collaboration arrangements with the Soviet Union regarding coal productoin in India. Now, Russia's agreement for development of Indian coal-mining industry has been in existence. Russia has decided to help India in coal projects.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : There were various difficulties when the erstwhile Soviet Union disintegrated. But still we continued having a dialogue with them, particularly, the States where coal is produced. Sir, it appeared that it used to be produced at several places in the erstwhile Soviet Union and the machines were supplied to us collectively. Now, each one has become independent. So, we are having dialogue and discussion with them so that we can have direct contacts with the manufacturers of each of the Independent States. Sir, there are four projects now which are to be taken up immediately. These are Jhanjra Underground Project of Eastern Coalfields, that is, Longwell mining technology; Khadia Opencast Project of Sowell Dumper Combination, Northern Coalfield; Nigahi Opencast Project, Sowell Dumper, Northern Coalfield; and modernisation of Patradih Washeries.

Opposition to Dunkel Proposals

*425 SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the organisations sent a detailed note outlining their opposition to the Dunkel proposals nearly three months ago;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) The main concerns that have been expressed with respect to the Dunkel proposals in the Uruguay Round are that they impinge on national sovereignity; that they will lead to unrestricted imports into the country; that in agriculture, our ability to provide subsidies to farmers and to run our public distribution system will be affected; that the patenting of seeds will lead to farmers having to buy seeds every year from multinational companies; that natural life forms, including genetic material, are becoming patentable subject matter and that the system of plant variety protection will affect our farmers; that the system of patent protection advocated in the proposals will require our Patents law to be changed and will adversely affect our pharmaceutical industry and drug prices in the country; that the proposals in the area of investment measures will mean unrestricted entry of foreign investment into the country; that the proposals in the services sector will lead to unrestricted entry for foreign banks, insurance companies and the like; and that the dispute settlement mechanism is inimical to our interests as it involves cross-retaliation.

(c) Government has taken note of the concerns expressed on the Dunkel proposals. Some of the concerns do not appear to be based on a proper appreciation of the factual position. Government has sought changes and improvements in the areas of agriculture, textiles, intellectual property rights and services. The Uruguay Round Negotiations are still in progress and it will be the endevour of the Government to ensure that our national interests are safeguarded.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Mr. Shinde has really to be congratulated for reaching his question.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Sir, my first supplementary is this. In part (c), it is said, "Government has taken note of the concerns expressed on the Dunkel proposals. Some of the concerns do not appear to be based on a proper appreciation of the factual position." And it is further stated, "The Government has sought changes and improvements in the